

MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PROMOTION/RETENTION

1. Can a teacher recommend promotion for a student even if the student doesn't meet district requirements to be promoted?

A student can be recommended for promotion if the teacher recommends that retention is not appropriate. The teacher makes that recommendation based on several factors: age, physical size, English Language Learner, IEP, previous retention, NWEA score indicating a year's growth or more, working to the best of their ability.

This first year, we need to use caution in recommending retention. Schools did not immediately offer interventions. If interventions had started earlier in the year, would the child have improved enough to be at grade level?

2. Can a student still be retained if the parent doesn't agree with that decision?

Yes. There is an appeal process for the parents. If they do not agree with the school's decision, then the parent has 10 days to write an appeal and give to the principal. If the principal upholds the decision of the school team, the appeal is sent to the Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Support Services.

3. Can a teacher recommend retention if a student has poor grades but is at grade level on SAT9 and multiple measures?

In the policy, in grades 4-8, **two or more** indicators need to be used to identify a student as at risk of being retained. Grades are considered to be only one indicator, and the policy states specifically that an overall GPA of 1.5 or below in grades 6th to 7th and 7th to 8th is one indicator.

4. Can students be retained more than once if they are not at grade level?

Technically, the answer is yes. However, on the checklist for retention, the teacher is asked to consider age and size. For example, if a child is retained two separate years, when that student reaches eighth grade, s/he may be 16 years old. Our middle school setting is not going to help that student be successful.

5. Should all students who are showing the possibility of retention be taken to an SST or does the grade-level SST accomplish this?

Students identified as possibly being retained can be discussed in a grade-level SST. Any student actually being retained needs to be brought to a regular SST.

6. Is it appropriate to retain second-language learners if the reason is social maturation?

While English Language Learners may be considered at risk of being retained, those who earn an English Woodcock-Muñoz score of 2.5 or below may not be retained **EXCEPT** for reasons of emotional or social maturity.

7. What forms do the teachers have to complete and have the parent sign?

There is an NCR form for kindergarten through fifth grade and a form for middle school. On the form is a place for parents to sign regarding interventions. When the decision is made to retain the student or not, the form is completed, with parent, teacher, and principal signatures. If a kindergarten student is retained, the school needs to complete the additional ADA form.

8. What does a teacher do if the parent requests retention?

Refer to the board policy regarding retention criteria. If the school makes the decision to promote the student, the parent has 10 days to write an appeal and give to the principal. If the principal upholds the decision of the school team, the appeal is sent to the Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Support Services.

9. What are we doing next year with the students who are retained?

Those students would be assigned to that grade and be on a regular schedule. Ideally, they should not be placed with the same teacher. Each school has to look at the students' needs and plan accordingly.

10. Is summer school for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders mandatory for those students who are at risk of being retained?

Summer school is not mandatory. However, the school can say that a student's promotion will be dependent on successful completion of summer school.

11. What are the deadlines for SSTs, Jerry Johns, etc.?

Each school will need to make that decision according to tracks, number of students being considered for retention, and any other factors.

12. If a student has attended homework helpers, Anytime School, etc., and is still failing, can they be retained?

Attendance at Homework Helpers, Anytime School, etc. is no guarantee of being promoted. However, the school should rule out other concerns as to why the student is not progressing.

13. Are all students with a GPA of 1.5 or below retained?

The GPA is an overall score of 1.5 that is used only with 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. This is not the only indicator or criteria for retention. The other criteria must be considered and interventions be offered.

14. Are 8th graders that are retained sent to the high school to take courses for no credit?

They may be retained at their current middle school, or the school can recommend those students for basic-skills instruction at the high school as a 9th grader.

15. What is the academic performance at the end of the first trimester for students?

The board policy does not delineate student performance for each trimester.

16. What are district guidelines for acceleration?


The guidelines for acceleration did not change from previous years.

Additional questions?

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